

REMARKS

By this Preliminary Amendment, a substitute abstract is provided, and claims 1 through 21 remain in this application. Claims 3, 8, 9, 11, 13, 15, and 18 - 21 are amended, primarily to conform to preferred U.S. format and to eliminate multiple dependency. Claims 1 through 21 remain pending in this application.

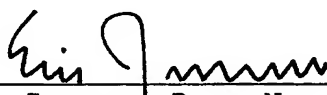
Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly requested.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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EJ/tmp

APPENDIX:

The Appendix includes the following item(s):

- ☒ - a new Abstract of the Disclosure